

Announcement of a public meeting and an effort to restore water quality in the Powell River including the North Fork Powell River, the South Fork Powell River, Butcher Fork, Wallen Creek, Bailey's Trace, Ely Creek, Gin Creek, Lick Branch, Puckett Creek, and Stone Creek in Lee and Wise County, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION: The meeting will be held at Conference Room 219 in the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy's Buchanan-Smith Building, 3405 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, Virginia January 28, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (in case of inclement weather the snow date will be February 4, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Mines Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Powell River including the North Fork Powell River, the South Fork Powell River, Butcher Fork, Wallen Creek, Bailey's Trace, Ely Creek, Gin Creek, Lick Branch, Puckett Creek, and Stone Creek Southwest Virginia.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has identified sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of the Powell River including the North Fork Powell River, the South Fork Powell River, Butcher Fork,

Wallen Creek, Bailey's Trace, Ely Creek, Gin Creek, Lick Branch, Puckett Creek, and Stone Creek in Lee and Wise County, Virginia. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations, as well as violating of the E. coli standard.

The draft study identifies the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, have been developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. DEQ also determined the sources of bacteria contamination and developed a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period for the draft study report. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, January 28, 2010 to March 1, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL reports on the impaired waters are available after January 27, 2010 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Shelley D. Williams- SWRO/ TMDL Coordinator

Address: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, 355 Deadmore Street, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688

Phone: (276) 676-4845 E-mail: sdwilliams@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (276) 676-4899